

MEETING SUMMARY

Project:

US-191, Over Colorado River Bridge #C285

Meeting Purpose:

Focus Workshops

Meeting Time/Date:

March 14, 2006
2:00 p.m. and 3:45 p.m.

Location:

Grand County Council Chambers

If you feel that an item needs clarification or correction, please provide your comments to Tiffany Carlson in writing at tcarlson@mbakercorp.com. She will resolve the issue and distribute revised minutes as applicable.

Attendees:Project Team

Jeff Berna, FHWA
Kim Manwill, UDOT Project Manager
Bryan Mouser, Baker Design Engineer
Jodi Pearson, Baker Design Engineer

Susan Miller, UDOT Archaeologist
Tamara Keefe, Baker Environmental
Lorraine Richards, Baker Project Manager
Tiffany Carlson, Baker Public Involvement

Workshop #1 (2:00)

Will Schwarzenbach, Questar
Julie Fox, Eklektika
Bill Stevens, Moab BLM
Gene Leonard, Grand County Credit Union
Audrey Graham, Grand County Council
Dave Wood, Arches NPS

Ken Bishoff, Zions Bank
Kim Healey, Frontier Communications
Saina, Property Investments
Laura Joss, Arches NPS
Joel Berwick, Department of Energy

Workshop #2 (3:45)

Judy Powers, Resident
Matthew Fleishman, Slickrock Campground
Jaimee Fleishman, Slickrock Campground
Dennis Wacker, Moab Irrigation Co.
Scott Wacker, Moab Irrigation Co.

Dave Stolf, Lion's Club
Kim Schappert, Moab Trails Alliance
McKay Edwards, Moab Springs Ranch
David Olsen, Moab City
Dan Stenta, Moab City

Two focus workshops were held. The introduction for each meeting was the same. Lorraine Richards reviewed the information on the project handout including a brief project description, the purpose and need for project, alternatives, and schedule. Kim Manwill provided an update on project funding. Because of funding constraints, the project is expected to be constructed in stages, with the Colorado River Bridge replacement first and the roadway sections following. Jodi Pearson explained the proposed typical sections for roadway and bridge structures that are also included in the project handout. Lorraine explained that the project team's objective for the meeting was to allow participants to review the preliminary build alternative and let the team know if additional issues along the corridor should be considered. The remainder of each meeting is summarized below.



Workshop #1 (2:00)

The following is a list of what the participants stated they wanted to achieve from the workshop:

- Avoid gossip/rumors about the project by getting real information from the project team
- Understand how construction may affect individual businesses
- How utility relocations will be impacted
- Give ideas on how the bridge design/aesthetics will look
- Possible addition of turning lane near N. Mivida Drive
- How the Dept. of Energy's Mill Tailings project affects this project
- How trails near Lion's Park and the new pedestrian bridge will be impacted during construction, steer bikes to new pedestrian bridge
- Possible extension of water and sewer lines over Colorado River to Arches
- To keep up to date on the project

The participants broke into smaller groups and gathered around the scroll plots showing the project area. They were able to interact one-on-one with the project team and ask specific questions about their property or an area of interest. Participants then reconvened and summarized the findings of their individual discussions.

- Bicyclists/pedestrians
 - Will be using the new pedestrian bridge
 - If possible, need to accommodate during construction
- Desert bighorn sheep north of the bridge
 - Fencing is not recommended
 - Caution signs could make travelers aware of this issue
 - Will need to prevent observers from stopping in travel lane during construction
- Access to rock art south of Courthouse Wash
 - This access will need to remain open after construction
- Planned BLM kiosk by Potash Road
 - There is no determined location at this time
 - Specific location is not important to BLM
- Timing of construction
 - Avoid peak business times
 - Notify travelers, not just Moab City
- Utilities
 - Grand County water/sewer would like to use the bridge
 - Frontier Communications has equipment at Station 172 (box on west side)
 - Questar may want to extend to the bridge, but not across the bridge
 - UDOT's permit process would apply to any utility requests across the bridge. This process should be initiated so that additional loads can be considered in design.



- Design issues
 - It is difficult to turn at N. Mivida Drive, suggest a turning lane
 - It is difficult to turn at 400 North, suggest a traffic signal
- Aesthetics
 - Artwork could be constructed on pillars that are not part of the bridge structure, but placed at the approaches
 - Could be locally or privately funded
 - The community could get people involved by having a contest for the design
- Agency Coordination
 - Department of Energy will be adding acceleration/deceleration lanes in front of their property during the 2006 construction season.
 - Arches Transportation Plan is expected to be complete by Summer 2006
 - Grand County Master Plan / Arches Transportation Plans are proposing that Lion's Park would be the hub for shuttles going to Arches. This would be a local shuttle service and would not be managed by the park.

Workshop #2 (3:45)

After the proposed typical sections were described, there was considerable discussion about the need for a separated bike lane south of the Colorado River Bridge. The majority of this meeting was held as a group session, focused on this issue. Near the end of the session, participants reviewed the project maps and discussed any other concerns they had with the project team. The following summarizes the workshop discussions.

- Bicyclists/pedestrians
 - A 10-ft detached bike path would be much safer and fit better within the context of the community than using the proposed sidewalk and shoulder of the road for bicycle and pedestrians.
 - The City of Moab has received enhancement funds to build a bike path along US-191.
 - Enhancement funds may not be enough to implement the entire path.
 - Moab City plans to annex land up to the Colorado River Bridge and the gateway plan requires new businesses to build a detached bike lane as they develop.
 - The path would follow the natural ground. A minimum of 5 feet is typically needed between the road and the bike path, but additional separation is desired where it can be obtained.
 - A separated path would result in additional displacements, especially between 500 West and 400 North.
 - Might need to stop the separated path north of constrained areas, or consider changing the typical section to a 4-ft shoulder and 10-ft sidewalk in these areas.
 - Sidewalk and bike path is redundant, would only need one and the bike path is preferred.
- Drainage
 - The city has drainage concerns and suggested that corridors for outfalls be identified now so as the area is developed, they can tie into the City and County system.



- Drainage issues should be addressed between the City, County, and UDOT.
- UDOT is only responsible for storm water within their right-of-way.

Comments

Written comments were received at the meeting and have been compiled below.

Colorado River Bridge Replacement

- Questar Gas does not currently have utilities located across the Colorado River. There are currently no plans to extend the system across the river.
- Would love to see real aesthetic consideration. Something semi-architectural-historic that would take the gorgeous environment into consideration. The gateway to Moab should be exciting enticing memorable and fun. Maybe even a
- Re-study bypass for trucks at portal.

Roadway Widening – 400 North to Colorado River Bridge

- There may be Questar Gas mains affected by a road widening in this area. Please contact Questar for updated utility plans.
- Lots of traffic troubles in this area. A traffic light at 400 North would slow and solve lots of traffic problems, improve visibility. Allow a crosswalk that would be honored hopefully.
- Detached bike paths!

Courthouse Wash Structure Widening

- There are no Questar Gas services in this area or planned.
- Tie in with bikes and pedestrians.

Roadway Widening – Colorado River to Courthouse Wash, Courthouse Wash to SR-279 (Potash Road)

- There are no Questar Gas services in this area or planned.

Additional comments:

- Great meeting, thanks!

How did you hear about this meeting?

- Received letter in the mail.
- Notified via distribution (mailer).

What went well?

- Maps were useful. Participants were very open and available.
- I like this format for public meetings. 1-Brief overview of project, 2-small group session, 3-lessons learned.

What can we do differently next time?

- Provide project descriptions ahead of time.
- Nothing.

Cc: Attendees, Jason Taylor, Linda Whitham, Bevan Wilson, Marc Stilson, Mr. Wang, Myron Lee, Boyd Wheeler, Randy Taylor, Susan Manes, Project file

